

December 4, 2020

Louisiana Board of Ethics
PO Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Louisiana Board of Ethics,

I am writing you today to request a reconsideration for the penalty that has been assessed to the Citizens for Cutting the Crap out of Politics committee for its 2019 40-G Campaign Finance Disclosure Report.

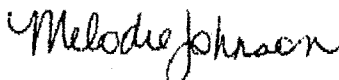
The reason for the delinquent filing of the 40th Day After General Election report was that I was told that this report was not due, and therefore, I did not file the report as I believed I was following the specific instructions of the Louisiana Administration Program. I reached out and contacted the Louisiana Administration Program specifically regarding this report after reviewing the reporting schedule on the Administration's website as there was nothing on the schedule referring to Runoff elections. I was told at that time that a Post-General election report was not due for our committee based on the fact that the sole candidate that the committee was opposing was unsuccessful in their Runoff election. In addition, I was specifically told that the next report due for the committee was the Annual report on February 18, 2020, covering activity from October 28, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

It is my understanding that delinquent filing notice regarding the 40th Day After General Election Report should have been sent to the PO Box on record (LA Rev Stat § 42:1157 (B)) within 4 days of the due date and via certified mail. Had I received the notice, it would have allowed me to file the late report within a certain time frame to avoid an assessed penalty. To the best of my knowledge and information, no delinquency notice was ever received by the committee. Furthermore, I, personally, have never received any copy of an initial delinquency notice.

It was only after contacting the Campaign Finance department on 2/19/2020 that I was verbally informed that the committee had maxed out on the penalty for delinquent filing of the 40th Day After General Election Report in the amount of \$3,000.00. I have since updated the contact information for this committee in February so that any future communications would come directly to me.

If I had been made aware of the requirement to file this report when initially contacting the Louisiana Administration Program, or if I had received any notice of delinquency in a reasonable time from the filing due date, the matter would have been rectified far sooner. I was completely unaware of a report due prior to the Annual report due in February of 2020. Within that time period, the maximum fine amount had already been assessed.

Thank you for your reconsideration, and I look forward to resolving this matter.



Melodie Johnson
Treasurer

Fax

To: Louisiana Board of Ethics

From: Melodie Johnson

Fax: 225-381-7271

Pages: 2 including cover

Phone:

Date: 12/4/2020

Re: Reconsideration of Penalty Assessment **CC:**

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